

REGION 2—GENESEE

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March was probably best remembered for its lack of snowfall; there was measurable snow on only two days totaling 0.5", ranking it in the top ten for all time lowest snowfall. This total was 11.9" below normal. Precipitation was about average at 3.25", 0.26" above normal. Several storm systems brought rain to the Region during the second week, increasing the risk of flooding. Many creeks and streams ran quite high. The temperature took its usual March roller coaster ride. The month started out very cold but quickly changed to a stretch of warm weather with above normal temperatures. There was a brief period of cold during the middle of the month, but things warmed up again, with a high of 61° on the 25th. The average temperature of 25.4°F was 1.1° above normal. March arrival dates were pretty much normal. April was a fairly quiet weather month. The only significant features were a winter-like start and a summer-like ending. The average temperature of 46.6° was 1.3° warmer than normal. There was one sub-freezing day on the 7th and a high of 85° on the 27th. Precipitation was 0.55" below normal at 2.20". The bulk fell during the first week of the month. There was a 12-day stretch with no measurable precipitation. We quite often

experience significant snow in April, but this year's total was a mere 1.8". April also experienced 60% of possible sunshine as opposed to the normal 50%. There was a significant number of early arrivals during April. Many arrived with a warm pulse 24-27 April. May was generally a pleasant month. The average temperature of 56.8° was about as close to the norm of 57.0° as you can get. Precipitation totaled 3.3", 0.48" above normal. The only day of significant rainfall was the 28th, which was accompanied by thunderstorms. 66% of the possible sunshine was recorded during May. Even though it was a pleasant month, it did not produce a particularly good migration from a birding standpoint. There were very few days with optimum conditions for good flights. The nights were cool and the days often dominated by cool lake breezes. This was especially true along the Lake Ontario shore. One observer described the May migration for many species as "pathetic", categorizing it overall as one of the worst May migrations ever.

Waterfowl again arrived early this year and passed through rather quickly. The only plusses were increased reports of Ross's Goose and Cackling Goose. There were some good concentrations of Canvasback and Redhead on Braddock Bay, but they were relatively short lived. Puddle duck numbers were poor, while divers were just okay. Am. White Pelican put in an appearance this spring. Two birds were on Braddock Bay in early April, and a single bird spent 12 days moving between Braddock Bay and Long Pond later in the month. These occurrences may possibly be tied with the two birds seen in late March to the southwest in Region 1.

Dave Tetlow and Josh Lawrey manned the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch this year. Conditions for good hawk flights were few and far between. Black Vulture put in its now annual appearance, with a single bird at Braddock Bay on 16 May. The highlight for the hawk watch was the multiple Swainson's Hawks, including a dark morph bird banded on 9 May at the Braddock Bay Raptor Research station by Dan Niven. Few observers reported much in the line of marsh birds. However, there were two King Rail reports during May. The first was from the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex and the other from Brush Creek in Hamlin. The latter location has produced this species several times historically. Common Moorhen numbers continued to be low. It was another good year for Sandhill Crane, with numerous reports from Braddock Bay and the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex. They have bred at the latter site for a number of years now. This year's crane sightings include a "**Lesser Sandhill Crane**" observed at Braddock Bay by Dave Tetlow. The shorebird flight was okay, but certainly not great. The best flights occurred at the end of May, with coverage at the Hamlin Beach Lakewatch by Andy Guthrie, Robert Spahn, William Symonds, and Dave Tetlow. There were some interesting, if not exceptional, sightings. Am. Golden-Plover, Red Knot, and Sanderling were reported, species which are not seen every spring. Single day counts of 134 Whimbrel, 25 Red Knots, 528 Semipalmated Sandpiper, and 335 Dunlin were tallied in the last days of May at Hamlin Beach. Observers commented on the poor showing for Short-billed Dowitcher. There were few gull and tern

highlights, yet there were some lowlights—Bonaparte's Gull numbers poor, no Little Gull reports, and no reports of Black Tern in the Region.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was reported in Hamlin. There was some discussion around whether it was the same individual that had been reported in Parma from last September into the winter. Recently observers have found a pair near the Hamlin site plus the bird still at the Hamlin site; more to follow in the summer report. A May Snowy Owl report came from the TNC's Rush Oak Openings Preserve in southern Monroe County. The owl migration was poor this spring. The number of sightings of Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owls at the historical stopover site along Manitou Beach Road was down. The usual few Whip-poor-wills were reported, including birds reported from Bergen Swamp where they have been unrecorded for a number of years. Common Nighthawk numbers reverted back to a maximum of only 85 individuals in late May after last year's big counts.

Generally low numbers characterized the passerine migration, yet there were some plusses. Dave Tetlow again picked two good flight days to do intensive counting of migrant passerines—14 May at the West Spit of Braddock Bay and 16 May from Parking Lot #4 at Hamlin Beach SP. There were some excellent counts for many species on those days. Generally, there were very few days with really good conditions for migration and birds on the ground for birders to find the next day. Some other highlights included a good, typical late-season push of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, multiple reports of White-eyed Vireo in May, 130 Cliff Swallows on 14 May at Braddock Bay, and the nearly annual Dickcissel report. Fish Crows were observed regularly on the University of Rochester campus, a new location for the Region. The thrush flight was poor, as illustrated by very low numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes and not much better numbers for other migrant species.

Warblers had an interesting April, with a new Regional high for the month of 21 species reported. The overall picture, however, was mediocre. Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Am. Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, and Wilson's Warbler were observed in okay numbers, while Golden-winged, Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll, and Black-and-white Warbler counts were low. This was also true for Ovenbird and Mourning Warbler.

Clay-colored Sparrow continued its presence in the Region, though with fewer birds reported from the recent breeding sites. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow numbers were down. Brewer's Blackbird was reported again, a nearly annual occurrence now. Rusty Blackbird numbers were okay, but they continue to be a species of concern.

The finch flight was one of the best in recent history. The White-winged Crossbill invasion of the winter continued into spring, as did the incursion of Pine Siskins, with counts of 1000+ in April and May for the latter species. Common Redpolls were present during the early portion of the season, with a flock of about 300 individuals continuing at Hamlin Beach. Multiple Hoary Redpolls accompanied this flock, with up to 10 individuals observed by Dave Tetlow and Richard Crossley on 1 March, and at least one "*Greenland*" race individual carefully described by Chris Wood on that date.

The March species total was 140 with the 10-year average being 130.8. The early arrivals of April pushed the month's species total to 207, with the 10-year average being only 181.1. May was only one species below the 10-year average at 229. The year-to-date total was 2.2 species below the 10-year average at 259.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

A – Auburn Trail, T Victor MONR; b – banded; BB – Braddock Bay MONR; BBBO – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; BR – Broadway WAYN; CH – Cobbs Hill, City of Rochester MONR; CL – Conesus Lake LIVI; DE – Durand-Eastman Park MONR; E – T Elba GENE; EL – East Lakeshore MONR/WAYN; G – T Greece MONR; GE – T Geneseo LIVI; H – T Hamlin, MONR; HB – Hamlin Beach SP MONR; HI – Highland Park, City of Rochester MONR; HP – Hogan Pt, T Greece; HS – Huckleberry Swamp, WAYN; I – T Irondequoit MONR; ICW – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece MONR; K – T Kendall, ORLE; LW – Letchworth SP LIVI/WYOM; M – Manitou Beach area MONR; MP – Mendon Ponds Park MONR; NR – Nations Road, T Avon LIVI; OB – Ontario Beach, Charlotte MONR; PA – T Parma, MONR; PB – Point Breeze ORLE; PE – T Perinton MONR; R – City of Rochester MONR; RO –
The Kingbird 2009 September; 59 (3)

Rush-Oak Openings LIVI; S – T Savannah WAYN; SP – Sodus Point WAYN; TC – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon LIVI; W – T of Webster MONR; WL – West Lakeshore MONR/ORLE.

WHISTLING-DUCKS - VULTURES

Snow Goose: max 4000 S 8 Mar; last 1 BB 17 Apr.

Ross's Goose: arr 1 S 8 Mar (LL); 1-2 H 10-11 Mar (RS, mob); 2 S 13 Mar (LL); 1 DEC Pond, T Lima 16 Mar (MW).

Canada Goose: max 25,000 H 10 Mar.

Cackling Goose: total 37 sev loc all Mar; max 9 HB 19 Mar (WS); 1 Byron 9 Apr (WS); 1 BB 25 Apr (DT).

Trumpeter Swan: max 12 S 1 Mar (LL).

Tundra Swan: max 2100+ Groveland Flats, LIVI, 14 Mar (JK); last 1 BB 24-25 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 1m CL 22-23 Mar (LG, DH, SS, mob); 1 m S 28 Mar (TL, BW, SB); 1 m S 2 Apr (JSI).

Blue-winged Teal: arr 1m G 4 Mar (KG).

N. Shoveler: arr 1m S 7 Mar.

N. Pintail: max 25,000 S 15 Mar (R&SS); last 1 S 18 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 BB 6 Mar.

Canvasback: last 2 BB 1 Apr.

Redhead: last 1 DE 25 May.

Ring-necked Duck: last 1 H 9 May

Greater Scaup: last 1 BB 2 May.

Lesser Scaup: last 1 BB 20 May.

Surf Scoter: last 3 HB 12 May.

White-winged Scoter: max 1250 HB 12 Mar.

Black Scoter: last 4 HB 10 May.

Long-tailed Duck: max 599 HB 5 May.

Bufflehead: last 2 G 16 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1m PB 1-23 Mar (mob); 1f W 5 Mar (GC); 1m CL 21, 23 Mar (JK, et al.).

Com. Goldeneye: last 2 HB 24 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2500 HB 5 May.

Ruddy Duck: arr 5 BB 18 Mar; last 1 TC 4-11 May.

Ruffed Grouse: 1 T Ontario, WAYN 15 Mar (SS), first report of the year.

Red-necked Grebe: max 30 WL 27 Mar; last 1 HB 20 May.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: 2 BB 8-9 Apr (JLaw, mob); 1 G-BB 3-14 May (FL, mob).

Double-crested Cormorant: max 302 HB 24 Apr.

Am. Bittern: arr 1 BB 2 Apr, early.

Least Bittern: arr 1 G 4 May.

Great Egret: arr 1 G 31 Mar (KS).

Green Heron: arr 1 BB, DE 27 Apr.

Turkey Vulture: max 3846 BB 2 Apr.

252

BLACK VULTURE: 1 BB 16 May (MT).

HAWKS – ALCIDS

Osprey: arr 1 S 14 Mar (DK), record early; max 25 BB 27 Apr.

Bald Eagle: max 27 BB 16 May.

N. Harrier: max 59 25 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 1104 BB 25 Apr.

Cooper's Hawk: max 73 BB 2 Apr.

N. Goshawk: 1 G 2 Mar; 1 BB 17, 28, 29 Mar; total 19 BB all Apr; 1 BB 16 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 3 BB 14 Mar; max 209 BB 17 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 252 BB 18 Apr; 5002 BB 24 APR; max **10,284** BB 25 Apr; 6628 BB 27 Apr.

Swainson's Hawk: 1 imm lt morph BB 27 Apr (JL, DT); 1b BB 9 May (DNi), imm drk morph; 1 BB 9 May (DT), imm lt morph; 1 BB 12 May (DT).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 294 BB 9 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 20 BB 17 Apr, low; last 1 H 20 May, late.

Golden Eagle: arr 1 BB 11 Mar; max 5 BB 25 Mar (DT); total 24 BB all Apr; 1 imm BB 16 May (MT); 1 BB 19 May (DT).

Am. Kestrel: max 96 BB 25 Apr.

Merlin: total 4 sev loc all Mar; total 15 sev loc all Apr; max 11 BB 16 May.

Peregrine Falcon: total 7 sev loc all Mar; total 6 sev loc all Apr.

Virginia Rail: arr 1 S 5 Apr.

Sora: arr 1 Taylor Marsh, ONTA 2 May.

King Rail: 1 S 20 May (DT, KG, GL); 1 H 23 May (JeB, CW).

Com. Moorhen: arr 1 S 18 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr 1 BB 11 Mar (DT), early; 39+ BB all Apr, total 15 other loc all Apr.

"LESSER" SANDHILL CRANE: 1 BB 17 Apr (DT).

Black-bellied Plover: arr 2 P 5 May.

Am. Golden-Plover: arr 2 BB 25 Apr (DT); Parma 5 May (DT).

Semipalmated Plover: arr 1 HB 28 Apr; max 9 HB 28 May.

Killdeer: arr 1 G 5 Mar; max 323 BB 1 Apr (DT).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr 1 sev loc 5 Apr; last 1 T Ogden, MONR 25 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 1 sev loc 5 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 DE 25 Apr; max 16 BB 28 Apr (DT, JLaw); last 2 S 20 May.

The Kingbird 2009 September; 59 (3)

Spotted Sandpiper: arr 1 T Cuylerville, LIVI 26 Apr.

Upland Sandpiper: arr 1 HB 28 Apr.

Whimbrel: max 134 HB 31 May (WS), 2nd highest Reg count.

Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1 SP 20 May; max 12 HB 31 May.

Red Knot: arr 1-3 SP 28-29 May (BC); arr & max 25 HB 28 May (DT, AGu, RS).

Sanderling: arr 1 SP 29 May (LL, RG).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 12 S 12 May; max 598 HB 28 May (DT, AGu).

Least Sandpiper: arr 5 WAYN 5 Apr (JSI), very early; max 25 HB 28 May (DT, AGu).

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 S 24 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1 BB 17 Mar (DT), very early; last 1 M 23 May.

Dunlin: arr 1 H 6 Apr (G, F & HL), very early; max 335 HB 28 May (DT, AGu).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 1 SP 29 May (LL, RG), rare here in spring.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 7 HB 24 May, very late arr; max 11 HB 29 May.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 1 HB 2 Mar (DT), very early.

Am. Woodcock: arr 1 G 7 Mar.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 1 BB 7 Mar; max 70 DE 17 Apr, low.

Iceland Gull: 1 imm HB 24 Apr (AGu, WS, RS); 1 imm BB 19-20 May (RS, DT, KG, GL).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1 H 13, 26 Mar (DT); 1 1st sum OB 28 May (RS).

Caspian Tern: arr 1 G 7 Apr; max 105 HB 12 May.

Com. Tern: arr 5 PB 17 Apr; max 46 HB 19 May.

Forster's Tern: arr 1 G 17 Apr; max 11 BB 9 May.

PIGEONS - WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Dove: 1 H 6 Mar (RS), *intro*.

Snowy Owl: 1 Groveland, LIVI 11 Apr (PI); last 1 RO 2 May (SM, mob).

Long-eared Owl: total 8 M all Mar.

N. Saw-whet Owl: total 4 M all Mar.

Com. Nighthawk: arr 1 G 14 May; max 85 G 29 May.

Whip-poor-will: arr 1 HP 24 Apr; Bergen Swamp 20 May, first here in sev years.

Chimney Swift: arr 1 BB 25 Apr; max 158 HB 16 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr 1 M 25 Apr (GL, JSk, RMc), ties Reg record early; max 67 BB 14 May (DT).

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 S 28 Mar (BW, SB), interesting loc.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 Rattlesnake Hill WMA, LIVI 17 Mar, overwinter site.

FLYCATCHERS – WAXWINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr 1 G 24 May; S 29 May, only reports.

E. Wood-Pewee: arr 1 W 30 Apr (D&DT), very early.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr 4b, 1 M/ICW 16 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1 LW 13 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 1 A 19 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr 1 M 16 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr 1 ICW 25 Apr (R&SS, et al.), very early.

E. Phoebe: arr 1 CL 17 Mar, early.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 1 ICW, BR 25 Apr (mob), very early; max 62 BB 14 May (DT).

E. Kingbird: arr 1 BB 24 Apr, early; max 439 BB 16 May.

N. Shrike: total 36 sev loc all Mar; last 1 WL 11 Apr.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 1 R 4 May (KH); 1 RO 4-5 May (BC, TP, mob); 1 DE 8 May (DD, mob).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr 1 HS 26 Apr (LL), very early.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr 1 M 24 Apr.

Warbling Vireo: arr 1 A 22 Apr (LJ), ties Reg record early.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 1b M 14 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr 1 BB 28 Apr, early.

Blue Jay: max 1910 HB 16 May, lower than usual max.

Fish Crow: 1 R 12 Apr (KF); 2 R 21 Apr (KF); 1 M 26 Apr (GL); 2 R 2 May (KF); 2 R 3 May MP, different site; 1 M 2-3 May (GL, RK).

Com. Raven: 1 MP 1 Mar (SG), interesting loc.

Horned Lark: max 206 BB 6 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr 1 H 2 Apr; max 225 HB 16 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 1 BB 7 Mar (CW), very early; max 500 G 18 Apr.

N. Rough-winged Swallow: arr 3 H 3 Apr (DT), very early; max 275 BB 14 May.

Bank Swallow: arr 2 W 20 Apr; max 3000 HB 14 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr 2 BB 27 Apr; max 130 BB 14 May (DT).

Barn Swallow: arr 1 G 27 Mar; max 470 HB 16 May.

House Wren: arr 1 HS 25 Apr.

Winter Wren: 1 Turning Point Park, C Rochester 7 Mar (NP, KSD), wintering bird?; number low.

Marsh Wren: arr 1 G 18 Apr.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr 1 sev 17 Apr; max 86b M 17 Apr; last 1 G 24 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr 1b M 22 Apr.
E. Bluebird: max 425 HB 16 May (DT).
Veery: arr 1 W 30 Apr.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr 1 G 18 May; low numbers.
Wood Thrush: arr 1 M 26 Apr, early.
Am. Robin: max 10,000 BB 1 Apr (DT).
Am. Pipit: arr 1 BB 5 Mar; max 720 HB 16 May (DT).
Cedar Waxwing: max 1190 HB 16 May (DT).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 3,1 ICW, W 27 Apr (mob), very early.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr 1 T Murray, ORLE 8 May.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: 1 A 8 May (SD).
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: 1 RO 4-5 May; 1b M 11 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr 1 CH 3 May (CC), very early.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr 1b M 28 Apr.
Nashville Warbler: arr 1 sev loc 26 Apr.
N. Parula: arr 1 ICW, G 29 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 1 sev 25 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1 M, ICW 29 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr 3 ICW 28 Apr (BC,JSk), very early.
Cape May Warbler: arr 1 G 26 Apr.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr 1 PE 26 Apr (B&MAC), very early.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 1 R 16 Apr; max 220 BB 14 May, low.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr 1 sev loc 25 Apr.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1 CH 27 Apr (PM), very early.
Pine Warbler: 1 CL Inlet Swamp 9 Mar (MW), likely overwinter bird; arr 1 CL 9 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr 1 M 9 May.
Palm Warbler: arr 1 ICW 24 Apr; max 65 BB 28 Apr.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr 1 G 7 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1 CH 12 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 1 HS 3 May (R&SS), very early.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 1 CH 25 Apr.
Am. Redstart: arr 1 PE 29 Apr (DS,BC,JP), very early.
Ovenbird: arr 1b, 1 M, A 27 Apr (BBBO,SD), very early.
N. Waterthrush: arr 1 BR 25 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr 1 LW 15 Apr (CS), Reg record early.
Mourning Warbler: arr 2b M 15 May.

Com. Yellowthroat: arr 1 sev 26 Apr, early.
Hooded Warbler: arr 1 BR 25 Apr (SB,TJ,TL), very early.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr 2b M 9 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 1 G 8 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: arr 1 ICW 14 May (MP,JM), few rep annually.

TANAGERS - WEAVERS

Scarlet Tanager: arr 1 LW 1 May (AW), ties Reg record early; max 172 BB 14 May (DT).
E. Towhee: arr 1 R 14 Apr.
Am. Tree Sparrow: last 2,1 BB, G 21 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr 1 W 29 Mar; max 78 BB 28 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1b M 1 Mar.
Field Sparrow: 1, 2 HP, ICW 28 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr 1 T Murray, ORLE 3 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr 1 T Pittsford, MONR 28 Apr.
Fox Sparrow: arr 1 ICW 19 Mar; max 23 R 8 Apr (KH); last 1b M 26 Apr.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr 1b M 30 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 7 HB 26 Apr.
Lapland Longspur: max 38 BB 25 Apr; last 3 H 30 Apr.
Snow Bunting: last 1 BB 18 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 1 CL 27 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr 1 BB 28 Apr (RS), very early; max 116 BB 14 May (DT).
Dickcissel: arr 1 BB late Apr (DT).
Bobolink: arr BB 20 Apr (DT), early; max 1745 BB 14 May.
E. Meadowlark: arr 1 BB 5 Mar, early.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: 1m W 25 Apr (D&DT).
Rusty Blackbird: 209 HB 18 Apr (JeB, CW); 210 BB 28 Apr (DT, JLaw); last 1 Powder Mill Park, MONR 19 May.
BREWER’S BLACKBIRD: 1 PA 15 Apr (DT); 1 T Murray 4 May (KG), male.
Orchard Oriole: arr 1 H 26 Apr (KH), very early.
Baltimore Oriole: arr 1 CL 26 Apr; max 516 BB 14 May.
Purple Finch: max 260 BB 28 Apr (DT, JLaw).
White-winged Crossbill: 40 R 34 May (LC).
Com. Redpoll: last 1 R 19 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: 10, 8 HB 1,3 Mar (DT, RC), very high counts.
HOARY “GREENLAND” REDPOLL: 1 HB 7 Mar (CW), carefully identified to subspecies.
Pine Siskin: max 1138 HB 18 Apr (JeB, CW); 1065 BB 14 May (DT).
Am. Goldfinch: max 3450 HB 16 May (DT).